AfterMath

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Off-Campus Programs Growing

The Masters Program in Secondary Education for Mathematics Teachers is now in its third year and growing. This new program began in Fall 2000, with offerings in Mesquite at A&M-Commerce's Metroplex facility (2600 Motley Drive). Rick Kreminski is currently teaching Calculus for Real and Complex Functions for Teachers. (Actually, the course is offered as a distance education class, with most of the students being at the Mesquite location.) For more information about the program, see our web site: http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/coas/math/masters/

Our offerings at the Navarro campus in Corsicana are growing also. All mathematics courses there are to service the K-8 teacher certification program. Vanessa Huse is managing a heavy schedule as our only full-time teacher at Navarro. She also administers multiple grants related to teacher preparation and improvement each year. This academic year the two standard mathematics classes for K-8 teachers will be offered, as well as Introduction to Geometry, Essentials of Statistics and Mathematics History.

Please visit our website at:
http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/coas/math/

Rick Kreminski Appointed Interim Dean

Dr. Finney Murray, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, has appointed Rick Kreminski as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Kreminski had been serving as Assistant Dean for the past three years. The appointment was effective on September 1, 2002.

In making the appointment, Dr. Murray said, "Dr. Kreminski has demonstrated a deep commitment to the college and university, and his service as assistant dean over the past three years has been exemplary in terms of its high quality, high energy, and unselfish devotion to the college, Regents' Initiative, and University. I have great confidence in his ability to conduct the responsibilities of dean exceptionally well."

We wish Rick well in this new position but will miss him in the Mathematics Department.

Colloquium News

An active series of mathematics lectures continued over the past year through the efforts of Dr. Rick Kreminski. Following is a partial list of speakers, their institutions and topics.

Eric Aurand, A&M-Commerce, *Touched by an Angle* Alex Clark, University of North Texas, *The linking of orbits of flows on* S^3 John Chen, Southern Methodist University, *Modulation dynamics of self-pulsating diode laser*

Scholarships

We are grateful to the many alumni and former faculty who have improved our department by the support of scholarship endowments. Over the past year we have been able to distribute funds from these endowments to deserving students.

Recipients of the various awards in 2002 were as follows:

Rachel Lafferty Scholarship—Micah Cunningham, Honey Grove, TX
John and Elaine Yznaga Scholarship—David Chesney, Greenville, TX
Dale and Betty Bedgood Scholarship—Scott Bouis, Rockwall, TX
Northeast Texas Transfer Scholarship —Tammie Rolf, Scroggins, TX
Bub Taylor Scholarship—Linda Rankin, Sulphur Springs, TX
Cecil B. Wright Scholarship—Jennifer Kornell, Commerce, TX and Amber Benson, Irving, TX
Dennis Grantham Graduate Scholarship—John Denney, Commerce, TX.

You can make contributions to any of these by contacting the Mathematics Department 903-886-5157, or the A&M-Commerce Development Office 903-886-5712.

New Faculty

We are very pleased to welcome a new faculty member to the department. His presence will enlarge our ability to offer quality programs to students and to serve the academic community better.

Ahmed Rashed is an ABD in Mathematics at the University of North Texas. He is working on his dissertation in "Solving Differential-Algebraic Equations Using Steepest Descent with Sobolev Gradient." He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mathematics (Minor in Computer Science) from the University of North Texas. Ahmed has over eleven years of teaching experience in Higher Education. He has taught at the University of Bahrain, University of North Texas, and North Central Texas College. He also worked as an Independent Consultant for Ernst & Young (Bahrain) and EZWorks, Inc. in Plano, Texas. When he is not working, Ahmed likes to spend his time with his wife, Layla and their two kids, Yousif (13) and Noaf (7) and enjoys eating pie.

Eisenhower Grant Awarded

Two Eisenhower Grants entitled "Incorporating Algebraic Thinking," were awarded to Texas A&M University-Commerce and the Navarro campus for the 2002-2003 school year. Forty teachers (grades 2-8) participated in the three-week summer training sessions held on each campus. The focus of the project was to explore variables, explore functions, and to match graphical patterns to goodness of fit. The goal of the project was to increase mathematical knowledge of teachers, allow teachers to view the teaching of mathematics in a hands-on technological environment, create an environment where teachers were comfortable with their own problem solving ability using technology, and to model instructional methods that help underserved minority students to be successful in mathematics.

Participants will meet for more instruction for six hours each month during the school year. Instructors for the project included: Dr. Maribeth McAnally, project director from A&M-Commerce Computer Science Department, Dr. Vanessa Huse from A&M-Navarro campus Mathematics Department, and Dr. Karen Rhynard from A&M-Commerce Mathematics Department. Dr. Huse was the project director for the Navarro campus.

Middle School Math Certification A New Degree Program

The State Board of Education for Colleges (SBEC) has approved the new middle school math certification program. A twenty-seven hour program has been especially designed for 4-8 Math Certification. Five new courses have been added and have been designed specifically for the middle school program. These courses are Mathematical Structures and Application (Math 372), Mathematical Modeling of Science I and II (Math/IS 361 and Math/IS 362), Introductory Geometry (Math 301) and History of Mathematics for Middle School Teachers (Math 397).

Students who wish to teach mathematics have three choices of programs which include:

Elementary Education	10 hours of math
Middle School	24 hours of math
Secondary	24-39 hours of math

Alumni Updates

Xiaolan Luo (B.S. 1997) received a masters degree in Computer Science from Georgia Tech University. She resides in Chandler, Arizona.

Charlotte Simmons (B.S. 1988) has been named Director of Graduate Studies (Mathematics) at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, Oklahoma. The program currently has more than fifty students.

Simon Zhang (M.S. 1996) is working at Cingular Wireless in Richardson, Texas. Jane Zhang is employed at Avaya, a spin off of Lucent Technologies, in Carrollton, Texas. Both are in Senior IT positions. They are expecting their second child.

Chuck Cox (B.S. 1994) is President and a Programmer at Aerotel Corporation in Aledo, Texas. Even though he was a C.S. major, he says that the most enjoyable experiences he has as a student here was in the Math Department.

Laura Durrenberger (B.S. 1994) is working as a Multi-Disciplined Engineer for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucscon, Arizona. She provides support for algorithm development including coding of algorithms and trade study analysis.

Let Us Hear From You

We would like to hear from all of our former students. Whether you used slide rules or calculators in the classroom, attended ET or A&M-Commerce, we are interested in what has happened in your life since you left campus. If you have a story about a favorite professor, we would like to here that too. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Math Department so your information can be concluded on the next *AfterMath Newsletter.*

Name: _____

Address (for our files): _____

_____

City, State & Zip: _____

Degree: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Please list any promotions, career changes, achievements, awards, or personal news that you would like to share: _____

_____

_____

Homecoming Breakfast

The sixteenth annual Mathematics Homecoming Student/Alumni Breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 26, 2002 in the Bluebonnet room of the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center. Please send in your reservations by October 22, 2002. The cost is $6.50 per person.

Name: _____

Address (for our files): _____

_____

City, State & Zip: _____

Please reserve _____ places at the Homecoming Breakfast on October 26, 2002 @ $6.50 each.

Please return to:

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